ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

Fifty-Fourth Annual Session

OF THE

Lost Creek Baptist Association,

of the Primitive Faith and Order,

WAS HELD WITH

Salem Church, Fayette County,

October 1, 2, 3, 1897.

OFFICERS:

J. S. KITCHENS, Moderator,..... Parrish, Ala.

I. P. MYERS, Clerk,..... Carbon Hill, Ala.

The next Session of this Association will be held with Pleasant Hill Church, Fayette County, Ala., commencing on Friday before the first Sabbath in October, 1898.

Richardson Printing Works, Jasper, Ala.

MINUTES.

The Fifty-fourth Annual Session of the Lost Creek Baptist Association of the Primitive Faith and Order was held with Salem Church, Fayette County, Ala., Oct. 1st,. 2d. and 3rd., A. D. 1897.

ART. 1st. The Introductory Sermon was preached by our beloved Brother and Elder T. M. Harris. Text, St. John 14th chapter, 6th verse. Jesus saith unto him I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me.

ART 2nd. After short recess the delegates reassembled in the church house. After singing, prayer was offered by Eld. H. Barton.

ART. 3rd. Called for letters from the different churches and reading of the same and names of delegates enrolled as the table will show: From Zion letter and delegates, viz: J. I. Faught, H. Herron; Pisgah letter and delegates: I. N. Roberts, G. W. Myers and J. B. Myers; Liberty Grove, letter and delegates: T. J. Downey, Eld. Tho. McGough; Center Hill, letter and delegates: A. J. Guttery, J. G. Guttery; Pleasant Hill, letter and delegates: J. W. Johnson, J. W. Alridge, John M. Barton; Sulphur Springs, letter and delegates: Elder J. S. Kitchens, A. A. Williams, Wm. Randolph; Salem, letter and delegates: A. T. Poe, W. M. Roberson, W. S. Poe; Union, letter and delegates: D. M. Day, W. J. Hocut; Enon, not represented.

ART. 4th. Elected Eld. J. S. Kitchens, Moderator, and I. P. Myers, Clerk, after which the moderator announced the Association ready for business.

ART. 5th. Invited visiting Ministers and Brethren to seats with us.

ART. 6th. Called for petitionary letters from newly constituted churches.

ART. 7th. Called for correspondence from Sister Corresponding Associations: Five-Mile Creek, letter, minutes and delegates viz: Elders H. Barton and T. M. Harris; Mt. Zion, letter and minutes; Hopewell, delegates: S. J. Norris, S. G. Hamilton and Elder W. R. Brown; Buttahatchee, no tidings.

ART. 8th. Appointed Brethren to write letters to Sister corresponding associations, viz: J. I. Faught to Five-Mile Creek, D. M. Day to Mt. Zion, A. T. Poe to Hopewell, G. W. Myers to to Buttahatchee.

ART. 9th. Appointed a committee on finance, viz: William Poe and A. J. Guttery.

ART. 10th. Appointed arranging committee, viz: Zion, J. I. Faught; Liberty Grove, T. J. Downey; Pisgah, G. W. Myers; Center Hill, Joe Guttery; Pleasant Hill, John M. Barton; Sulphur Springs, A. A. Williams; Union, D. M. Day; together with the delegates from Salem.

ART. 11th. Adjourned until 9 o'clock, Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING.

ART. 12th. The Association met pursuant to adjournment, prayer by Elder W. R. Brown.

ART. 13th. The arranging committee handed in their report as follows: Bro. James to open service, followed by Bro. R. J. Guttery in the forenoon and Bro. Tho. McGough to preach in the afternoon.

ART. 14th. Names of delegates called and absentees marked.

ART. 15th. On motion the Constitution, Rules of Decorum, and Abstracts of Faith were read by Bro. D. M. Day.

ART. 16th. Called for the reading of letters to Sister Corresponding Associations, were read and received and messengers appointed: Five-Mile Creek, Elder Tho. McGough, Brethren A. A. Williams, A. C. Poe, Hiram Herron, Elder J. S. Kitchens; Mt. Zion, Elder J. S. Kitchens, Brethren D. M. Day and T. J. Downey; Hopewell, Eld. I. N. Roberts, Brethren, John M. Barton, J. W. Allridge, A. A. Williams; Butahatchee, Brethren G. W. Myers, I. P. Myers, J. W. Allridge.

ART. 17th. The next session of this Association will be held with Pleasant Hill Church, Fayette County, Ala., about 6 miles south of Eldridge on the K. C. R. R., to convene on Friday before the first Sabbath in Oct., 1898.

ART. 18th. Called for report of Committee on Finance, they report $15.05, and committee discharged.

ART. 19th. The first district meeting of this Association will convene with Zion Church on Friday, before the second Sabbath in Aug., 1898, Eld. J. S. Kitchens to preach the Introductory Sermon. The second district will convene with Sulphur Springs Church on Friday before the first Sabbath in Sept., 1898, Eld Tho. McGough to preach the Introductory Sermon, Eld. R. J. Guttery, Alternate.

ART. 20th. On motion, the Clerk was appointed to superintend the printing of the minutes. Also appointed Treasurer. That there be 200 copies printed and distributed among the different churches according to their contribution, reserving 75 for cor-

responding purposes. Allowing the Clerk $5.00 for his service.

ART. 21st. Called for Miscellaneous Business:

(1) Resolved, That we have a full minute as heretofore.

(2) On motion, Pilgrim church was dropped from the Association for she is dissolved.

ART. 22nd. Resolved, That the Association tender its most sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Brethren and Sisters of Salem church and kind friends of this community for their kindness shown us during our stay with them.

ART. 23rd. On motion, the present minutes were read and received and signed by the Moderator. Then adjourned until the time and place aforesaid.

J. S. KITCHENS,
Moderator.

I. P. MYERS,
Clerk.

SUNDAY SERVICE.

The stand was filled and the cause very ably defended by our beloved Brethren, T. M. Harris and H. Barton, and closed by our beloved Moderator amidst shouts and praises to our Heavenly Master.

I. P. MYERS, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. All the churches composing this Association shall be of the Baptist denomination.

Art. 2. All churches composed of members as above and constituted by a presbytery of members of the Baptist order on the abstract of the Principles of Faith adopted by this Association, shall be considered orthodox; and on application by letter and messengers (if found orderly) shall be received into this Association, which shall be signified by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 3. The Association thus formed shall be known by the name of the Loss Creek Baptist Association, of the Primitive Order, whose business shall be to maintain and perpetuate the union of the churches and brethren, to open and extend correspondence with sister Associations and the denomination generally, to determine doubtful questions, and to settle difficulties between churches; but shall have no power to infringe the internal rights of the churches nor interfere with the fellowship of individual members.

Art. 4. Each church shall be entitled to three representatives, who shall be chosen by the churches, and on their presenting a church letter certifying their appointment, they shall be entitled to seats and all the privileges of the Association.

Art. 5. Should any church of this body neglect or refuse to represent herself, as described in the above articles, she shall show cause for such neglect or refusal at the next session. Should she neglect or refuse to show cause, or should the cause not be satisfactory, and she refuses to give satisfaction, she may be excluded from the Association.

Art. 6. If any church or member of this body depart from the orthodox principles or become disorderly or remain incorrigible after due labor had, she shall be ex-communicated from the Association and published in the minutes.

Art. 7. Where any difficulty or difficulties arise between two or more

churches of this body it shall be the duty of the aggrieved to labor for satisfaction. Should satisfaction not be attained, it shall be the duty of the aggrieved to proceed according to the economy of the Church Discipline as contained in Matthew, chapter 18, and other parts of the Scriptures that define the nature of offences and the mode of bringing offenders to trial; but if the aid of helps of other churches should fail to effect a reconciliation, then the case shall be brought before the Association which shall take it up and try it on its merits, giving to all concerned a fair hearing, and the decision of the Association shall be final in the case, and shall be entered on the minutes; and in no case of difficulty between churches of this body shall be taken up but such as have been treated as above described.

Art. 8. The Association shall prepare a book of record in which all the proceedings shall be recorded.

Art. 9. The Association shall have a fund to defray the expense of printing minutes, paying the Clerk for services, and other incidental expenses. The money thus expended shall be furnished by the churches of this body and deposited in the hands of a Treasurer, who shall hold the Association fund, from which he shall advance money to the Association order, but not otherwise, and shall make a fair report in the minutes of each Annual Session of the money received from each church, of the amount in hand and the sum total; also the sum total with the several items paid out.

Art. 10. Every church shall be furnished with minutes and every other benefit of the fund in proportion to the money advanced by it.

Art. 11. Any amendment may be made the Constitution whenever a majority of the churches may think necessary and signify it to the Association in their letters, pointing out the defective part and the amendment necessary to be made.

ABSTRACT OF FAITH.

Art 1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, Word and Holy Ghost.

"In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God." St John 1, 1. 14th. v; "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

"For there are three that bear record in Heaven—the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost—and these three are one." I John, 5, 7.

Art. 2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the revealed Word of God, and the only rule of Faith and practice.

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." II Peter, 1st chapter and 21st verse.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." II Tim., 3d, 16.

"And I heard a voice from Heaven, saying unto me, write." Rev. 14, 13.

Art 3. We believe in the doctrine of election by grace. II Timothy, 1, 9.—"Who hath saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose, and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."

Eph. 1, 4. 5—According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself according to the good pleasure of His will."

Art. 4. We believe in the fall of man and that he is incapable of recovering himself therefrom. Rom. 5, 12—"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men for that all have sinned."

John 6, 44—"No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him, and I will raise him up at the last day."

Art. 5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Christ. Gal. 3, 6—"Even as Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

Rom. 4, 5—"But to him that worketh not but believeth on Him, that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

Titus 3, 7—"That being justified by His grace we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

Art. 6. We believe that God's Elect will be called and regenerated by the Holy Ghost. I Peter, 1, 2—"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father through sanctification of the spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.

Rom. 8, 30—"Moreover whom he did predestinate them he also called, and whom he called them he also justified, and whom he justified them he also glorified."

Art. 7. We believe that saints shall persevere in grace and never fall finally away. John 3, 9—"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin, for his seed remaineth in him, and he cannot sin because he is born of God."

I Peter, 1, 23—"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever."

John 10, 27—"My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me;" verse 28, "And I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish."

Art. 8. We believe Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only fit subjects of these ordinances, and the mode of Baptism is immersion. Mat. 3, 13—Then cometh Jesus from Gallilee to Jordan unto John to be baptized of him;" verse 16, "And Jesus when he was baptized went up straightway out of the water, and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon him."

John 2, 23—"And John also was baptizing in Enon near to Salem, because there was much water there, and they came and were baptised." Rom. 6, 4—"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death." Matthew 26, 26-27—"And as they were eating Jesus took bread and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples and said, take, eat, this is my body, and he took the cup and gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, drink ye all of it."

Art. 9. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment, and that the punishment of the wicked and joys of the righteous will be eternal. Luke 24, 6—"He is not here, but is risen." John 5, 28—"Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice;" v. 29, "And shall come forth, they that have done good unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation." Matt. 25, 46—"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal."

Art. 10. We believe that no minister has a right to the administration of the ordinances only such as are regularly baptised, called and come under the imposition of hands by the presbytery. Mark 3, 14—"And he ordained twelve that they should be with him and that he might send them forth to preach." John 15, 16—"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that ye should go and bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name he may give it you."

Art. 11. We believe that none but regularly baptised members have a right to commune at the Lord's table. Luke 3, 7-8—"Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptised of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come, bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance and begin not to say within yourselves we have Abraham to our Father, for I say unto you that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham."

"And Phillip said, 'If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest,' and

he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God.' And he commanded the chariot to stand still, and they went down both into the water, both Phillip and the Eunuch, and he baptised him." Acts 8. 37-8.

Matt. 3, 15—"And Jesus answering and said unto him, Suffer it to be so now, for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." I Cor. 5, 11—"But now I have written unto you not to keep company if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, with such a one know not to eat." Rom. 16, 17—"Now I beseech you brethren mark them which cause division and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them;" verse 18, "For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."

Art. 12. We therefore believe that washing the saint's feet was ordained by Christ to be done by his children until his second coming; John 13, 13-15—"Ye call me Master and Lord; and ye say well, for so I am. If I, then, your Lord and Master have washed your feet, ye also, ought to wash one another's feet, for I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."

RULES OF DECORUM.

Article 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. A Moderator and Clerk shalll be chosen by the suffrages of the members present.

3. Only one person shall speak at the same time, who shall first rise and address the Moderator.

4. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech by any one except the Moderator, nor by him unless he breaks the rules.

5. He shall strictly adhere to the subject and in no wise reflect on the person who spoke before so as to make remarks upon his slips, failings or imperfections, but shall fairly state the matter as nearly as he can do so as to convey his idea.

6. No member shall break off, or absent himself from the Association without leave.

7. No person shall rise or speak more than three times on one subject without leave of the Association.

8. Every motion made and seconded shall be put to vote by rising or sitting, unless withdrawn by the member who made it—and a majority in all cases shall decide.

9. No member shall have the liberty of whispering or laughing in time of public speech.

10. No appellation but that of brother shall be used in the Association.

11. The names of the several members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk and called over as often as the Association requires.

12. The Moderator shall have the same liberty of speech as another member, provided the chair be filled; but shall have no vote unless the Association be divided.

13. The Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected if need be, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association.

14. Any member who breaks any of the rules may be dealt with as the Association may think proper.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES	POST OFFICE.	COUNTY	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Sub. Meeting	No. baptized	Rec. by letter	Dis. by letter	Excluded	Restored	Died	Total Mem.	Rec on Confession of Faith	Contribution
FIRST DISTRICT.													
Zion	Saragossa	Walker	J. I. Faught, Hiram Herron	2						1	9		1 00
Pisgah	Carbon Hill	"	Eld. I. N. Roberts, G. W. Myers, J. B. Myers	2	3			3	1		32		2 00
Liberty Grove	Nauvoo	"	Eld. Thos. McGough, T. J. Downey	4	1						41		3 00
Center Hill	Townley	"	A. J. Guttery, J. G. Guttery	3							18		2 05
Pleasant Hill	Cole Bluff	Fayette	J. W. Johnson, J. W. Allridge, John M. Barton	1	2		1	2		1	17	3	2 00
SECOND DISTRICT													
Sulphur Springs	Jasper	Walker	Eld. J. S. Kitchens, A. A. Williams, Wm. Randolph	1			1				19		2 00
Enon	Oakman	"	Not represented										
Salem	Toledo	Fayette	A. T. Poe, W. M. Roberson, W. J. Hocut	1			2				11		1 50
Union	Oakman	Walker	D. M. Day, W. J. Hocut	2		3					8		1 50

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